

RED TAIL FLYER

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad Air Base, Iraq



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to train Iraqi police**

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keep airfields operational**

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DECEMBER 29, 2006



Combat Airpower for America is ...

Precision weapons & sensors employment
Combat search and rescue
Precision air delivery of personnel & cargo
Command & control of tactical air battlespace
Senior airfield authority operating key airfields
Combat support and battlefield Airmen
Critical medical care for battlefield injuries

4 Battlefield Airmen work to keep airfields operational

Better known as "dirtboyz," members of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron pavement and equipment shop work every day to keep the airfield open no matter how challenging it gets.

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RED TAIL FLYER

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332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Commander

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The crimson used throughout the publication alludes to the original Tuskegee Airmen of the 332nd Fighter Group.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-Americans to be trained as WWII military pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps. They were known as the Red Tail Flyers because of the crimson paint scheme on their aircraft's tails.



Photo by Maj. Richard Sater

COVER PHOTO: Senior Airman Ivan Morscher, Det. 6, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, deployed from the 96th SFS, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., cleans his M-4 rifle at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

Balad Highlights



Brig. Gen. Robin Rand
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
commander

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The Commander's Action Line is a way for Balad Air Base members to ask questions or express concerns about life on the base to Brig. Gen. Robin Rand, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander.

General Rand gives action line queries his personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish items that are of general interest to the base population.

In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

To reach the action line, send an e-mail to 332.
redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil.

To use the action line, include your name, unit and phone number for a timely response in case additional information is needed.

Brig. Gen. Rand: No room for complacency

By Brig. Gen. Robin Rand
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander

It's that time of year again. 'Tis the season for high spirits and eager anticipation – and I'm not talking about the holidays, either. I'm referring to the excitement and restlessness Airmen feel as their Air Expeditionary Force rotation rounds the three-quarter mark and heads into the home stretch.

Most airmen here for AEF 3/4 are well aware that their time is running short. The newness of the deployment faded away a couple of months ago. We've got our routine down, and we hardly have time to pay attention to it because there is so much else that must be done.

We're contacting our replacements and letting them know about Balad Air Base and about the proud traditions of the Tuskegee Airmen and the mission of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. We're building continuity books and after-action reports and nominating our airmen for end-of-tour recognition. Some of us count the days, even the hours.

And don't forget the distractions of the

season – holiday cards and packages arriving, letters and phone calls home, maybe even some sadness or anxiety about being separated from the family at the time of year when we most want to be with our loved ones. It's in the air right now, like the chill of winter: that sense of urgency and impatience.

But I am telling you now to resist it. The notion that a well-organized mission can run itself with little supervision is not simply wrong, it's also very dangerous. Just because nothing HAS happened does not mean nothing WILL happen. If we start focusing on the finish line instead of the race, we are committing a grievous error. We simply cannot afford it.

I'm not going to mince words here. Complacency kills. It's that simple. We are at war. There are many hazards of war that we cannot control, and so it is even more critical to be in full control of those we can. Your job is important or you would not be here to do it, and you must remain focused.

Every single Airman is critical to the accomplishment of the 332nd mission. Every day, we provide combat air power for America, with precision weapons and

sensor employment and delivery of cargo and passengers; with combat search-and-rescue; with combat Airmen like you, in every job specialty. We provide senior airfield authority, tactical control of the air battlespace, and medical care for all injured service members.

This is what we do, 24/7 times 365, and the war won't stop because you're preparing to go home. War has no mercy and no patience. Like a coiled snake, it waits for your complacency. Don't let it strike.

We cannot afford to lose concentration. The end will come soon enough, but in the meantime, it is up to you to keep your mind on your job and your head in the fight – and to be good wingmen to our fellow Airmen.

Enjoy the holidays. Communicate with your family. Spend some time with the good friends you've made during this rotation. Exercise and eat right to keep your body fit to fight. But when you put on your uniform and come to work, be prepared to do your best.

It is an honor to serve with you. The bargain I have made with your family is to do everything I can to ensure that you return safely home when your service is done. I'll do my part ... do yours.

Weather outlook

Today



Partly Cloudy,

55/30

Saturday



Sunny

56/27

Sunday



Sunny

56/30

Monday



Sunny

56/34

Tuesday



Sunny

55/35

Wednesday



Sunny

56/34

Thursday



Mostly Cloudy

58/36

“Dirtboyz” provide combat support



Staff Sgt. Shawn Ziesler, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron pavements and equipment craftsman, operates a grader to level ground Nov. 11. Sergeant Ziesler is deployed from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.



Staff Sgt. Isaac Moses, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron pavements and equipment journeyman, operates a front-end loader here Nov. 3. Sergeant Moses is deployed from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

Battlefield Airmen work to keep airfields operational

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Alice Moore
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Every day, aircraft fly in and out of Balad Air Base to provide vital support for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Whether F-16, C-130 or HH-60, the airframes are able to approach and depart because of fully operational well-maintained runways.

Better known as “dirtboyz,” members of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron pavements and equipment shop work every day to keep the airfield open no matter how challenging it gets.

“A typical day in the dirt shop would be repairing spalls on the runway, sweeping the airfield and taking care of any emergency repair that might occur,” said Tech. Sgt. Talmadge Markham, P&E assistant noncommissioned officer in charge, deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. “We also work to repair the airfield from mortar attacks. We work a minimum of 12 hours a day, but there’s never a set time that’s considered close of business.”

Recently, three pavements-and-equipment shop journeymen were put to the test on how

quickly they could repair a portion of the airfield. While out working on a job, Senior Airmen Shawn Cox and Allen Banerian and Airman 1st Class Tim Howell got the call to repair a spall (hole in the pavement resulting from an attack) that was a result of an attack.

“We were repairing a spall at another location when we heard two loud booms,” said Airman Cox, who is deployed from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. “We heard over the radio that there was an explosion by the tower.”

Once the area of the attack was cleared, the “dirtboyz” were called to go to the site and repair the area, which they completed in record time. The airfield was fully operational again in less than an hour.

“We went out there and performed an expedient repair job,” Airman Cox said.

The Airmen were recognized and coined by Brig. Gen. Robin Rand, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, for their efforts.

“We were just performing our everyday duties, but it was special to get recognized,” Airman Cox said.

In addition to airfield repairs, the shop has many other tasks.

“We are responsible for pouring concrete, digging trenches for various jobs such as the new electrical lines for the base hospital and building gravel parking lots for the mudcon (mud condition or rainy) season,” he said.

The dirtboyz also took on the project of re-vamping the munitions storage area here. The area was plagued by severe drainage problems, which prevented the delivery of weapons to aircraft last rainy season, he said. The efforts of the shop guaranteed the munitions mission could carry on without glitches, and it also saved the Air Force money in contracting costs.

Despite their long days, the “dirtboyz” enjoy what they do.

“I like the work we do on deployments because the scope of the jobs is bigger,” said Staff Sgt. Ricky Johnson, pavements and equipment craftsman deployed from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. “At home station, it’s more maintenance work, but here, you get the opportunity to work jobs like the munitions storage area.”

“I just love the equipment we use,” said Airman Howell, also deployed from Eglin AFB. “It’s great when you can actually look back and see the results of your efforts.”



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Kellum

Swingin' for the barriers

Colonel David "Doc" Ellis, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing director of staff, makes contact with a pitch by Chief Master Sgt. Bryce Maxson, former 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group superintendent, during the Chiefs versus Colonels wiffleball game on Christmas Eve. The Chiefs won the game, 6-3. The Chiefs and Colonels game kicked off Operation Holiday Cheer's wiffleball tournament, which was won by the 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alice Moore

Antlers for Dasher

Capt. Amy Brautigam (center), 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group executive officer; Airman 1st Class Chad Kellum, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron photographer; and their teammates create reindeer antlers with balloons and other items Monday during Operation Holiday Cheer's reindeer games.

Balad Idol

Airman 1st Class Daniel Sherrell, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, performs during the Balad Idol final round Dec. 21. The competition was won by Doris Hector, a Kellogg, Brown & Root employee. Airman Sherrell took second place and Staff Sgt. John Lillis, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, took third place.



Photo by Master Sgt. Kirk Clear

Bowl game pays tribute to servicemembers

Story and photo by **Annette Crawford**
Air Force Print News

FORT WORTH, Texas – The game may have been all about football, but the overall event was a tribute to 1.2 million very special people – the men and women of the United States armed forces.

The universities of Utah and Tulsa took the field Dec. 23 at Amon G. Carter Stadium for the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl. Utah won its sixth straight post-season bowl appearance, 25-13.

The flurry of activities before the game started off with a Fan Fest Adventure Area. Attendees could visit any number of military hardware displays, climb a rock wall, listen to a military band or take a ride in a simulator. There was also a display of an Army and Air Force Exchange Service mini-exchange, similar to the ones supporting deployed members overseas.

Near the center of the midway, one booth in particular held special meaning for servicemembers. The organization was Connect and Join, and founder and president Linda Dennis was more than happy to share her story. She paged through a scrapbook, one of several she and volunteers have made from thousands of pages that have found their way to her office in Columbia, S.C.

The pages are letters and drawings from children and adults all over the nation. They are done in pen, crayon, pencil and some, even in Braille. No matter the medium, they all bring words of encouragement to servicemembers deployed overseas.

"It all started as a way to connect with the troops," said Ms. Dennis, who has found the project to be an emotional experience. She received some pages from a 5-year-old boy in Iowa that were particularly moving.

"It's been very rewarding. I don't think I've ever cried so

much," she said of the pages that were done in Braille by Sawyer Deevers. The boy and his mother, Sonni, were part of a presentation during the fourth quarter of the game; Ms. Dennis presented a scrapbook to Maj. Gen. Allen R. Dehnert, assistant adjutant general and commander, Texas Air National Guard, who would send it to deployed servicemembers.

Opening ceremonies for the game featured six parachutists – five carried the flags of the armed forces and one brought in the American flag. Fireworks and a flyover by Navy jets started off the festivities in grand style.

The honors of the opening coin toss were deferred by the chief executive officer of Bell Helicopter, Michael Redenbaugh. He passed the honors on to Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England, who is a Fort Worth resident.

Representatives from all the armed forces were at the 50-yard line for the coin toss ceremony. General Dehnert represented the Air Force. From the Marines it was Brig. Gen. Richard Tryon, commanding general of the Marine Corps Recruiting Command. Cmdr. Kevin Hannes, commander of the U.S. Navy Recruiting District, Dallas-Fort Worth, represented his service, while Capt. Bill Diehl, captain of the port of Houston and commander of the Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston, represented the Coast Guard.

Private 1st Class Dennis Bowsher, the 2005 National Pentathlete champion and member of the Army World Class Athlete Program, represented the Army. He is a potential 2008 Olympic participant and native of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Also on hand was former Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Drew Pearson, a University of Tulsa graduate.

"It feels great (to be here)," Mr.



Referees shake hands with Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England and Maj. Gen. Allen Dehnert, assistant adjutant general and commander, Texas Air National Guard, before the coin toss at the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas, Saturday.

Pearson said. "The armed forces are involved in it and anything we can do to support what they do for us is important."

The Cowboy legend had a message for servicemembers deployed overseas.

"You've got to keep hanging in there, and just know that the people here, even though we're at bowl games and enjoying our holidays with our families, we still think about you and what you are doing over there for our country and for us," he said. "We know we would not have the freedom we have if it wasn't for you."

At the halftime, in addition to the universities' marching bands, there were also several military-themed events. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the first Great American Patriot Award to Secretary England.

"There should really be 1.2 million Patriot awards," Secretary England said. "Patriot awards should be for all our magnificent men and women who serve our na-

tion, so I accept this award on behalf of all of them because they are the true patriots who protect and defend this country every day."

The award was presented by Military Alliance and Associates LLC, known as MA3 LLC, as selected by the Military Affairs Committee of the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl. MA3 LLC is a military recruiting firm specializing in placing former military officers and NCOs into leadership positions in the private sector.

"Secretary England has displayed remarkable leadership in serving our country in three major defense-related departments the past five years," said Tom Starr, executive director of the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl. "We are honored to give our first Great American Patriot Award to him."

The Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl is one of several events featuring America Supports you, a Department of Defense program that showcases American support for members of the armed forces.

COB Speicher's Det. 6 to train Iraqi Police

Story and photos by
Maj. Richard Sater

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

SPEICHER, Iraq — It beats patrolling the flightline and issuing traffic tickets on base.

Ask anyone assigned to the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron's Detachment 6 here. They're one of just two Air Force teams doing what it's doing: training Iraqi policemen in the province of Salah ad Din how to run a police station as a professional, task-oriented organization and provide good lawing-and-ordering.

Approximately 45 Airmen from 11 security forces organizations assigned to different bases have converged at Speicher as Det.

6, and, damn, they're happy to be here — a hundred miles an hour, locked and loaded. A little anxious too, but you want that because it prevents complacency.

There's nothing like a good, new mission: the caffeine jolt of adrenaline, coupled with the confidence of well-trained troops and the awareness that this is a task worth doing well. In this different kind of war, one way to fight is to teach the Iraqis to fight back, to fight for their own security and stability. Functional law enforcement is Ground Zero, one of the cornerstones of civilized life.

"I'm going crazy here," says Lt. Col. Steve Kauffmann, wiry (and fully charged) detachment commander, deployed from the Pentagon. It's good crazy,

though. "It's a great mission," although "we were 'fragged' to it," he says, borrowing a slang term for "fragmentary order," or an unexpected change to the schedule. The Airmen were due to fill a more traditional billet at a forward-operating base in Mosul, Iraq, but were redirected to Speicher instead, happily taking on the in-lieu-of mission — ordinarily tasked to the Army — of training Iraqi police.

The Det. 6 Airmen are divided into teams, working at provincial headquarters, district stations, or smaller stations. The size varies, from small village kiosks manned by three or four men to large centers with staffs of 70 or 80. The Army's 97th Military Police Battalion (under the 82nd Airborne Division) oversees

Det. 6, and Colonel Kauffmann observes "more teamwork than I've ever seen before. It's all about communication, coordination and cooperation."

Daily, convoys hit the roads, four humvees each, and so far so good. Det. 6 is currently awaiting validation from the Army that it can perform the mission by itself, but that too is coming soon. In the meantime, each convoy carries Airmen, Soldiers and an Iraqi police liaison officer and translator.

They're working with police stations in and around Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown, and throughout the Salah ad Din province. It's a three-step process. The first involves locating the stations and assessing the capability. Second is training individual policemen to patrol and supervise and run a tight ship. Third is the final assessment, the end-of-course passing grade that allows the station to step out on its own.

Phase 1 is now in progress, complicated by the fact that some stations have been moved or destroyed, or they shut up shop for one reason or another. And new ones, yet unmapped, have turned up as well.

Phase 2 offers perhaps the biggest responsibility and challenge for Det. 6. "We'll assist them in developing their processes," in such areas as budget and logistics, personnel management, traffic and crowd control, reporting, weapons maintenance and discipline, and so on — how to keep a station running, Colonel Kauffmann says.

The third stage is up to the Iraqi police recruits. It's their future, and their responsibility.

The police-training in-lieu-of



A humvee heads toward the gate of Contingency Operating Base Speicher. The Airmen of Det. 6, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron send convoys out daily to assess the capability of various Iraqi police stations in the Salah ad Din province.

— see **POLICE**, Page 8

Around Iraq

POLICE, continued from Page 7 —

tasking is off-beat, perhaps, but “Air Force people are uniquely suited to it,” Colonel Kauffmann says without hesitation. “We train our Airmen for the ability to make decisions based on knowledge, feeling, intuition. We cultivate that into our troops. That’s how we train and operate every day.

“We’re organized around the mission, not the war,” he says. “It’s our mission to be accountable at home too.” The tactical and strategic skills are the same as well, with the addition of individual body armor and other protective gear. Add the inherent dangers of the combat environment outside the safe wire of the base, and the detachment is putting its skills to work like never before. “I think we’re perfect” for the job, he says.

His group spent a month at Fort Lewis, Wash., for Army combat-skills training first. “A hundred percent,” the colonel says. “We’ve stuck together. No one missed a day.” There followed two weeks at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, of theater-specific training – driving convoys, manning gun trucks, improvised explosive device training, land navigation, marksmanship, combat lifesaving, entry-control-point management and more.

Half of the detachment has already been deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and two-thirds have been “somewhere” doing the mission, somewhere other than their home base, the colonel says. The flight brings together “a tremendous amount of experience.” His enthusiasm is contagious, his confidence well-founded. It suits him.

“I’m proud of ‘em,” he says of his young Airmen.

And Det. 6 couldn’t be more ready to prove that the colonel’s confidence is well-placed.

“We’re stoked!” says Senior Airman Ivan Morscher, deployed from the 96th Security Forces Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. “We’ve had the training. We’re integrating with the Army. Taking some of the stress off. We can do this!”

They were, however, a bit surprised to find themselves at Speicher. “We didn’t know we were coming here until four days before,” says Senior Airman Meghan Evans, deployed from the 66th SFS, Hanscomb AFB, Mass.

Learning the nature of their new mission was a wake-up call. On their initial patrol, “we had no idea what to expect,” Airman Evans says. “We were the first eyes off base. I don’t



Photo by Maj. Richard Sater

Airman 1st Class James Matthews, a gunner with Det. 6, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, checks his .50-caliber machine gun prior to the convoy's departure.

think we said two words the whole time.” Training kicked in, and common sense, and caution.

“You’re not in Kansas anymore,” says Airman 1st Class John Reed, also from the 66th SFS.

The awe might subside after a couple of missions but the eagerness and urgency remain intact.

“We’re getting to do something other than base security,” according to Staff Sgt. Michael Cowan, deployed from the 43rd Security Forces Squadron, Pope AFB, N.C. “We’re doing what we’ve been training to do for a long time – the first chance we’ve had to do it.”

“You can’t have a stable nation without a police force,” says Staff Sgt. Jamal Grier, 72nd SFS, Tinker AFB, Okla. The actual teaching of fundamental tasks will take place at the stations, one on one, and the preferred method is hands-on. There is no textbook. Proficiency has one standard. “It’s ‘go’ or ‘no go,’” he says.

Airman 1st Class Ryan Fontenot, also with the 96th SFS, characterizes this as “the ‘year of the police in Iraq.’ And we’re training them. We’re getting them up to par. It’s an honorable job.”

And an important one.

“I don’t want my kids coming back here,” he says.

Colonel Kauffman – who has kids himself – has no illusions, in spite of the good stuff and the glamour and excitement of being first on the forward edge of this particular battle area. “It’s a dangerous mission,” he admits. “I hope we can get through it without killing someone or getting someone hurt pretty bad.”

He keeps in mind the bigger picture, a future where Iraqi police maintain order, and lawful society is the rule.

“We plant a seed,” Colonel Kauffmann says. Planted deep and properly fertilized, watered, nurtured, the seed will grow, and its success measured in this way: the Iraqi police forces will ultimately take control of their own destiny, as naturally as if it were “their own idea all along.”

(Editor’s note: Det. 6, 732nd ESFS, is part of the 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, under the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The wing’s mission includes providing in-lieu-of Airmen at more than 60 locations in country, working alongside their Army counterparts for Operation Iraqi Freedom.)

Resolution solutions from the ADA

New Year's resolutions often are about starting or stopping certain behaviors. Start 2007 out right by resolving to make this the year you really focus on your health.

Consider these resolution solutions to learn how you can succeed – in 2007 and beyond.

- ♦ Start by assessing your food choices and lifestyle. Keep track of what you eat and drink so you can identify the behaviors you would like to change.

- ♦ Set goals, but be realistic. Change doesn't mean you have to give up the foods you like. Smaller portions, different ways of cooking and being more physically active will allow you to enjoy favorites with fewer calories.

Divide big goals, such as "I will eat better," into smaller, more specific goals, such as "I will eat one more piece of fruit per day."

- ♦ Be patient and don't give up if you don't see a huge difference right away. Make small changes over time.

Real change takes time, commitment and encouragement. Stick with your plan. If you get off track, pick up where you left off and start again.

- ♦ Reward yourself. Change is hard work, and you deserve a pat on the back. Reward yourself with a new compact disc or outfit. And remember: feeling good and enjoying the best possible health will always be the best reward.

Eating healthfully doesn't mean you need to avoid all the foods you love.

With some planning, fitting treats into a healthful eating plan and sticking to your resolutions is easy. You can eat smaller portions, replace high-calorie foods with low-fat options or slightly adjust recipes.

By swapping out a few ingredients, even in Mom's classic dishes, you can reduce fat and calories without sacrificing taste.

Subtle modifications can improve your recipe's nutrition content without compromising taste.

Suggestions for making those dietary changes:

- ♦ Use two egg whites in place of one egg.

- ♦ Try dried fruit instead of nuts. Use three tablespoons of cocoa powder and one tablespoon of oil in place of baking chocolate.

- ♦ Replace cream or whipping cream with evaporated skim milk.

- ♦ Try substituting an equal amount of applesauce for at least half the oil, margarine or butter in muffins and quick breads like

banana bread.

- ♦ For dips, sauces and pie toppings, use non-fat yogurt or fat-free sour cream. Top casseroles with almonds instead of fried onion rings.

- ♦ Choose reduced-fat cheeses for salads and casseroles.

Happy New Year, and best wishes for achieving your resolutions!

*Information provided by the
332nd Expeditionary Aeromedical
Squadron*



Red Tail Fitness Center weekly fitness schedule

Friday

Spin – 3:30 p.m.
Step-n-Tone – 8 p.m.

Saturday

Step-n-Tone – 7 a.m.
Aikijujutsu – 8:30 p.m.

Monday

Spin – 8 a.m., 3:30 p.m.
Cardio Funk – 8 p.m.
Aikijujutsu – 9 p.m.

Tuesday

Cardio Funk – 7 a.m.
Spin – 3:30 p.m.,
8:30 p.m.
Karate Do – 7 p.m.

Wednesday

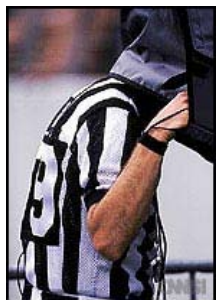
Spin – 3:30 p.m.
Legs and Glutes – 7 p.m.
Cardio Funk – 8 p.m.

Thursday

Spin – 6 a.m., 8 a.m.,
3:30 p.m.
Karate Do – 7 p.m.
Aikijujutsu – 8:30 p.m.

Jan. 5

Spin – 3:30 p.m.
Step-n-Tone – 8 p.m.



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

(Editor's note: Upon Further Review is a weekly column in which Senior Airman Josh Moshier and Master Sgt. Kirk Clear of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office debate their views on hot sports topics, games and items of interest. They rarely agree on sports, and when they do, you won't see it here.)

Mo Knows: LDT no Tiger, but should've been AOY

The Associated Press recently named golf über-star Tiger Woods its 2006 Athlete of the Year.

What is about to follow is not a slight toward Tiger; not even Michael Jordan can claim paralleled dominance in his sport.

That said, in spite of Tiger's continued supremacy of the golf universe, by choosing him as its AOY, the AP effectively slapped San Diego Chargers All-World running back LaDainian Tomlinson in the face. To say LDT's 2006 season is the greatest by any running back ever will surely inspire a debate to which there is no answer, and to say his 2006 is better than Tiger's 2006 inspires a similar debate. But that's what I'm saying.

Consider this: Though the NFL single-season touchdown record has been broken several times in recent years, it was always extended by a single score. In shattering the record this year, LDT extended it by three – not counting his two touchdown

passes – and he still has a game left to play. Although LDT won't reach the magical 2,000-yard rushing mark (he sits at 1,749 yards and doesn't figure to play much this weekend), he still leads the next closest rusher by 98 yards. He also has 54 receptions for 494 yards – fantastic totals for a running back.

When touting the accomplishments of any player, all you can do is compare his season against those of his peers, and LDT has been head-and-shoulders better than any other back in the league.

The most important point to consider, however, is where the Chargers would be without its leader. Would San Diego be 13-2, have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs and be a Super Bowl favorite without LDT? I'm saying the Chargers wouldn't even be a playoff team.

Tiger is great, and he should be considered for AOY every year, but it's simply a crime to ignore what LDT has done this year.

The Clear View: LT, Woods great; Federer better

You have got to be kidding, Mo. Do you watch anything but the four major team sports? Get your head out of the Iraqi sand.

Tomlinson has had a great year – one definitely worthy of an NFL most valuable player award. But when you look at athletes in other sports, he takes a back seat this year.

Tiger had a phenomenal year in a season where he took lots of time off to spend with his ailing father. Anyone who didn't know what Tiger's father meant to him and his career shouldn't be reading this article. When he played, he was awesome. Tiger won 55 percent of the tournaments he played in 2006. That amounted to eight victories, including two majors.

However, Woods still isn't the top athlete of the year. My vote goes to Roger Federer.

Tiger even agreed. After being notified of him being named male AOY, Woods said, "What (Federer's) done in tennis, I think, is far greater than what I've done in golf."

All Federer did was post an astounding 92-5 match record in 2006, including 12 singles titles.

That's winning 95 percent of his matches and an amazing 71 percent of the tournaments he entered!

Of his five losses, four were in the finals, losing all to Rafael Nadal. Federer also won three Grand Slams, losing only in the French Open finals to Nadal.

Federer has been ranked number one in the world every week since 2004. He is only 25-years old and only two titles away from tying the legendary Rod Laver for 10th place all-time in tournament victories.

Since his first Grand Slam title in 2003, Federer has already racked up nine majors. That's only five behind all-time leader Pete Sampras, who took 13 years to amass his 14. Federer may well be on his way to shattering every tennis record in the book.

Tomlinson and Woods had great years, but Federer tops them all. Unfortunately, since the state of American tennis is in a lull, he gets the raw end of the deal. The AP voters haven't been paying attention to tennis, and they never give enough appreciation to foreign athletes.

Now it's up to you, Tuskegee Airmen. Who's right? You decide. Sound off on the RTF's self-proclaimed sports gurus, or suggest a topic for discussion in a future column, in an e-mail to 332.redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil.



Condensed sports schedule

NFL

Sunday, AFN Sports, 4 a.m.
N.Y. Giants at Washington

Sunday, AFN Sports, 9 p.m.
New England at Tennessee

Sunday, AFN Prime, 9 p.m.
Jacksonville at Kansas City

Sunday, AFN Xtra, 9 p.m.
Oakland at N.Y. Jets

Monday, AFN Xtra, midnight
Miami at Indianapolis

Monday, AFN Sports, midnight
Atlanta at Philadelphia

Monday, AFN Prime, midnight
San Francisco at Denver

Monday, AFN Prime, 4:20 a.m.
Green Bay at Chicago

NBA

Sunday, AFN Xtra, 6 a.m.
Golden State at Sacramento

Sunday, AFN Xtra, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Chicago

Tuesday, AFN Xtra, 6 a.m.
Boston at Portland

Wednesday, AFN Xtra, 6 a.m.
New York at Sacramento

NHL

Saturday, AFN Xtra, 3 a.m.
Washington at N.Y. Rangers

Saturday, AFN Xtra, 3:30 p.m.
Boston at Nashville

Schedule is subject to change. For a complete list of all AFN programming, visit <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>.

A reason, a season, a lifetime

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jeffrey Neuberger
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing chaplain

“A good friend is a connection to life — a tie to the past, a road to the future, the key to sanity in a totally insane world.”

These words, penned by Lois Wyse, remind us how important friendship is to the journey of life.

In life we experience many and varied relationships; people come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime.

When someone is in your life for a reason, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend, and they are. They are there for the reason you need them to be. This is a relationship I often enjoy as a chaplain, providing help for a particular problem or lending an ear for a moment.

Some people come into your life for a season, because your turn has come to share, grow or learn. They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They

usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy.

My circle of friends has grown as a result of this deployment and though we’ve shared only a season, I will remember every one and count myself blessed to have come to know and appreciate their qualities.

Lifetime relationships teach you lifetime lessons, things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said

that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant. Friendship says: “If you’re alone, I’ll be your shadow. If you want to cry, I’ll be your shoulder. If you want a hug, I’ll be your pillow. If you need to be happy, I’ll be your smile. But anytime you need a friend, I’ll just be me.”

As another year draws to a close and a deployment rotation ends, think back over all the friends you have made this year. Make it your purpose to tell that person, “thank you for being part of my life.”

Whether they were (are) there for a reason, a season or a lifetime.



Balad Religious Schedule

Catholic Services

Daily Mass

5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Tuskegee Chapel

Saturday

4:30 p.m. Reconciliation

Tuskegee Chapel

5 p.m. Mass

Tuskegee Chapel

Sunday

9 a.m. Sunday Mass

Tuskegee Chapel

11 a.m. Sunday Mass

AFT Hospital Chapel

Confessions available by appointment

Protestant Services

Saturday

7:30 p.m. Liturgical Service (Episcopal)

Tuskegee Chapel

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Traditional Service

AFT Hospital Chapel

10 a.m. Contemporary Service

Town Hall

2 p.m. Church of Christ

2 p.m. Gospel Service

3:30 p.m. Gospel Service

5 p.m. Traditional Service

8:15 p.m. Traditional Service

Wednesday

8 p.m. Midweek Contemporary Worship Service

Tuskegee Chapel

AFT Hospital Chapel

Tuskegee Chapel

Tuskegee Chapel

AFT Hospital Chapel

Tuskegee Chapel

Other Services

Sunday

3:30 p.m. Orthodox Prayer Service

Tuskegee Chapel Office

7 p.m. Latter Day Saints Sacraments

Tuskegee Chapel

8 p.m. Latter Day Saints Sunday School

Tuskegee Chapel

Friday

7 p.m. Friday Shabbat Service

Tuskegee Chapel Office

For more information on worship opportunities or needs, call 443-7703.

For the after-hour duty chaplain, call 443-3320.



Today

2 p.m. — The Prestige
5 p.m. — Eragon
8:30 p.m. — TCM: The Beginning

Saturday

2 p.m. — Everyone's Hero
5 p.m. — The Grudge 2
8 p.m. — Eragon

Sunday

2 p.m. — Eragon
5 p.m. — Flicka
8 p.m. — The Grudge 2
Midnight — TCM: The Beginning

Monday

5 p.m. — The Prestige
8 p.m. — Casino Royale

Tuesday

5 p.m. — Casino Royale
8 p.m. — Eragon

Wednesday

5 p.m. — The Grudge 2
8 p.m. — Casino Royale

Thursday

5 p.m. — Eragon
8 p.m. — TCM: The Beginning

Jan. 5

2 p.m. — The Santa Clause 3
5 p.m. — Night at the Museum
8:30 p.m. — Casino Royale

Casino Royale

Daniel Craig, Judi Dench

James Bond's mission takes him to Madagascar, where he is to spy on a terrorist. Not everything goes as planned and Bond decides to investigate, independent of the MI6 agency, in order to track down the terrorist cell. On a lead to the Bahamas, he encounters Dimitrios and his girlfriend, Solange. He learns Dimitrios is involved with Le Chiffre, banker to the world's terrorist organizations. Rated PG-13 (violent action, sexual content, nudity) 144 minutes

Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning

Jordana Brewster, Taylor Handley

On one last road trip before they're sent to serve in Vietnam, two friends and their girlfriends get into an accident that calls their local sheriff to the scene. Thus begins a terrifying experience where the teens are taken to a secluded house of horrors where a young, would-be killer is being nurtured. Rated R (strong horror, gore, sexual content) 91 minutes

Eragon

Edward Speleers, Jeremy Irons

A boy named Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest. At first, he thinks it's a lucky discovery, something that will bring meat to his poor family for the winter. Instead, it brings a dragon hatchling, and Eragon is soon thrust into a world of magic and power through which he and the dragon must navigate. Rated PG (fantasy violence, frightening images) 97 minutes

The Prestige

Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale

A mysterious story of two magicians whose intense rivalry leads them on a life-long battle for supremacy full of obsession, deceit and jealousy with dangerous and deadly consequences. From the time they first met as young magicians on the rise, they were competitors. However, their friendly competition evolves into a bitter rivalry making them fierce enemies-for-life and consequently jeopardizing the lives of everyone around them. Rated PG-13 (violence, disturbing images) 130 minutes

Synopsis courtesy www.AAFES.com
Show times courtesy 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron

Cash Prizes

THE GONG SHOW

A talent show with variety

Come have a WACKY good time!!

New Year's Eve Bash

Red Tail Recreation Center @ 9 PM

SIGN UP NOW!

POC: SSgt Sedberry @443-7455 or Amanda.sedberry@blab.centaf.af.mil



Operation Holiday Cheer

More than 2,000 people have participated in various Operation Holiday Cheer events. The last Operation Holiday Cheer event will be Morale Daze 2. A team of six can sign up through the rec center or by e-mailing Staff Sgt. Alice Moore at alice.moore@blab.centaf.af.mil. For more information on activities or volunteer opportunities, e-mail Sergeant Moore.

Don't be "That Guy"

By Capt. Mel Turner

332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron
Provost Marshal Office detachment commander

Welcome to the weekly saga of "That Guy."

This article should provide you a window into our world and leave you with some information to avoid becoming "That Guy."

"That Guy" is a person who does something that's not very well thought out or just plain stupid.

This week, let's see what happens when you combine alcohol, lack of awareness of personal limitations and old-fashioned common sense, and General Order No. 1.

A group of five - "Team That Guy" got in trouble at a Morale Welfare and Recreation event. One member of the team got sick, vomited on himself.

Concerned, force protection personnel checked on team "That Guy," and called the Military Police. MPs followed the puddles of lunch left by the member of team "That Guy" and found the team propping him up.

When asked what was wrong, the sick member of team "That Guy" said, "I'm dehydrated," while his teammates said, "We just need to take him to his room."

Not easily persuaded, the MPs told the sick member of the team to sit down and radioed for assistance. Before the radio transmission ended, there were only two members left of team "That Guy."

Other MPs arrived, put the two members of team "That Guy" into handcuffs and drove them to the MP station. Both were tested, revealing a significant amount of alcohol in their systems. One member had so much in his system, medics were called to ensure there was no threat of alcohol poisoning.

Team "That Guy" was charged with violating Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, *Failure to Obey an Order or Regulation: Violating General Order No. 1*. "That guy" could also have been charged with Article 134, *Drunkenness*. Littering was an option too, but we went easy and let



leadership deal with that portion.

Speaking of leadership ... the supervisor was awakened and called in to pick up team "That Guy" from the MP desk.

So what have we learned from this experiment? It's as simple as DON'T DRINK. Not only do you risk demotion, but you also risk your life.

We are attacked all the time, and as a result, unexploded ordnance is always a threat. Can you see UXOs in the dark with your judgment and sight impaired by alcohol?

If you can, come see me; we've got a job for you! If you can't, stay away from General Order No. 1 violations and go home with your current rank and physical well being.